

Ruby Alice Penfold Justice

CD 433

Today is September 8, 2008. I am Ellen Kiever and today we are collecting the oral history of Ruby Alice Penfold Justice. She was born September 7, 1917 in Dale Creek, Wyoming. Her parents were Walter Eugene Penfold and Charlene Longacre. Also included are comments from Ruby's daughter, Alice Hullinger.

Ellen: Ruby, why don't you tell me about where and when you were born? What kind of a farm or a ranch that you lived on.

Ruby: Well, I was born in Dale Creek, Wyoming, September the 7th, 1917 on a ranch. The doctor had to come from Loveland. It took him a long time to get there and mama said that I kicked my way out. I have no idea how long they lived there but they left there when I was nine months old and came here.

Ellen: They came to the Uinta Basin?

Ruby: Yes, at the foot of the mountain up there, (Pine Ridge) in the Deep Creek area. I don't know exactly how long they stayed there. Her dad bought them a ranch twelve miles from LaPoint. They moved down there. It was a one room log cabin and we lived in this one-room log cabin until my sister, Lola, was born.

Ellen: Okay, the children of the family were Allen, Weston, Thomas, Harry and then Lola *and Alice Justice*.

Ruby: No! They are my kids.

Ellen: Oh!! Okay, then we will back up. There were Ruby, Vona, Chauncey, Veza, and then Lola. There were five children in the one room cabin. Do you remember what your family had for furniture?

Ruby: They couldn't put much furniture in there. Mom had sheets to petition it off so we slept behind the sheets in beds back there. We had beds with straw ticks. We had to change the straw in them every so often because they got flat.

Ellen: That was a chore I bet, *but in the winter, when dad had hay, I had to milk.*

Ruby: I didn't have to do it. I herded sheep.

Ellen: Your father had sheep, about three hundred you said.

Ruby: He started out with bum lambs, *7bum lambs and the lambs grew and they had lambs.*

Ellen: He built his herd with bum lambs, *at the time, they gave them away if you came and got them..*

Ruby: At that time they could go to these big sheep herders and they would give you the bum lambs and you could take it home and raise it. So that is how he got his herd started. He had about seven to ten young ones and they got in the alfalfa field, I think I was about seven but I can't remember, we had a dog named Patty and he ran after these lambs. He ran them out of this field and they ran way off down in the toolies. I thought well I am lost. I don't know where I am at. I got them turned around and started back and I thought I will just follow em'. They probably know where they are goin'. So I follow them back home.

Ellen: So, they led you back to your house! What else did your father do?

Ruby: He irrigated the farm. We milked cows for a livin' and we separated the milk. I don't know how many cows we had. We milked about fifteen cows. We separated the milk and sold the cream to Eli Smith. He used to send his hired up to pick up the cream. *He would test the milk for cream.* Mom would give him a list of what she needed. They would buy it and bring it back the next week. If we ran out, one of us would have to ride a horse down to his place and get what she needed. *It was six miles each way.*

Ellen: What did Eli Smith have, a store?

Ruby: No, *his place was where the milk was tested for cream. He would write a check back to us for the cream. He tested for Mutual Creamery.* He was a bus driver and kind of a farmer. He had some sheep. He brought his sheep up for us to herd one year. We turned em' all back but one out of the 45.

Ellen: What did he do with the cream?

Ruby: Well, he had a cream station, a creamery. He would test it and make you out a check for what the cream was worth. Then you could take the check and go buy what you needed or have them do it. *A creamery in Salt Lake would take it. One time, Billy Sweatman and Vona went to May Sprouse's store. The check wasn't big enough to cover it all. Billy said, "Just make it bigger. When I come back Eli had to tell dad he _____ Vona for it. Mom had to _____ him with the cream check and bring back what was left over.*

Ellen: That is why your mother prepared a list and he did the shopping. That is the way she received her pay for the cream.

Ruby: Eli drove bus in LaPoint *with school children.*

Ellen: This was about 1923 or so when he had this? *I started school when I was seven-years-old. I rode with Ina Swetman to one room school house on John McNorton place. Teachers lived above school room or in a tent. My first teacher was _____.*

The rest of my schooling took place in Deep Creek and I spent my last year in the eighth grade.

Ruby: Somethin' like that.

Ellen: Tell me about your schooling, did you go to school in LaPoint?

Ruby: No. We went to school in *Coon* Creek in a one-room school house. We was all in one room. My first teacher was a Wolcott? He was a man. The school had some living quarters above it. You could go up a ladder and they lived up over the school. He was married *and I don't think they had kids*

Ellen: What did you do for your lunch?

Ruby: You're gonna be surprised. We had a pot-bellied stove in this school house in one corner and we'd all take a vegetable or somethin' and the older girls would make a soup out of it, put it on the stove and cook it. That is how we got our dinner.

Ellen: Did you have to take your own silverware, your own cup.

Ruby: No. they had it there.

Ellen: Did you ever have to wash the dishes after?

Ruby: I don't know what they did with the dirty dishes. Maybe he [the teacher] or his wife washed em' *or most of the time the older girls might have washed them.*

Ellen: How many children were in the school?

Ruby: I got a picture of some of them. Here is a picture of the house that my dad built.

Ellen: Oh! This is a large house. This was after the one-room home.

Ruby: Yea, when Lola was a baby we moved into this house. Mom and dad build that by their selves. *There was two bedrooms, front room, and kitchen on the main floor. There was an upstairs where us gals would sleep.*

Ellen: So all of your brothers and sister went to school with you.

Ruby: No. *When I was in the third grade, Hannah Richard was the teacher and was my teacher until the seventh grade.* A new school house on Labrum hill and on the night before school started it burned to the ground. So you can imagine what happened, for two or three weeks we was out of school while they prepared it. A bus to drive us to LaPoint to go to school and I was in the eighth grade then. We didn't have no paved roads, it was all mud and dust and dirt. When winter storms would come and melt, we'd get stuck have to get out and help push the bus out of the snow *and mud.* Sherm Taylor drove the bus.

His wife was Delpha Thompson and she taught the fourth grade in that one-room school house, until we moved up in the new one, sometime in the spring of the year, they moved us up there in that school house.

Ellen: Did they rebuild the school that burned?

Ruby: No. They did not. They just bused us to LaPoint. I think that someone set the fire to that school. I think they just burned that school so they could put us in LaPoint.

Ellen: After all that hard work and money was put into that school. That's too bad isn't it?

Ruby: Yes, but I think that's what happened. It had to be, it was on the night before school started that Monday morning. There was nothing around it to catch it a fire. There was no electricity in it.

Ellen: Did you have a favorite school teacher?

Ruby: Hannah Richards, she taught us for about four years. She was a widow. She had some relative that stayed with her, young kid, but we played hooky one morning because she lived in the back room in the school house and she did not unlock the door till it was time to go in. So we all decided we would go down under the hill and play hooky. So we did, till about 10 o'clock.

Ellen: You just showed up really late for school.

Ruby: Yea, we was just tryin' to learn her to open the door so we could get in out of the cold.

Ellen: Did you have a favorite subject in school, English or arithmetic, or any special subject in school?

Ruby: We always had the Pledge of Allegiance first before we started school and sang God Bless America. I liked arithmetic. We all had to learn our times tables, *1's through 12's*.

Ellen: Was that *Dan* dog a favorite pet?

Ruby: No, They brought him from Colorado when they came here. I am getting ahead of myself. The dog they brought here was named Dan. All mom would have to say was "Dan, it's time to go get the cows to milk." He would go get em' and bring in. He had a bad trait. He would go to the neighbors and steal their food, *the meat from the store house*. They had to get rid of this dog. They shot him.

Ellen: So then you ended up with Patty.

Ruby: Patty was good for doin' what it wasn't supposed to do. Dan would have been good for the sheep but like I said he went to the neighbors and steal their meat. Dad said, "Well, I can't have that so I'll just shoot him."

Ellen: That is a good thing in a way. It shows that he was a responsible pet owner. What about your friends in school, did you have many friends?

Ruby: Well, we didn't have too many friends. There was about seven or eight families that lived up there. Some of them come off the Thoroughbred and some come from farther up the creek than me, *then pick up children at mine and some lived below Eli.*

Ellen: What is the Thoroughbred?

Ruby: The Thoroughbred Ranch is where we came when I was nine months old. We lived on that ranch for a while. (She is showing me a picture of one of the homes they lived in and some of the friends they had.)

Ellen: Did you ever get to go and just play?

Ruby: *I guess before they got sheep.* I got to tell you, when Thanksgiving or Christmas or any special day come along one family, like my mom and dad, would make the pies and cakes. We would have a party. Then the next family would do the next one on the next party time. That is how we spent our fun, had our fun.

Ellen: I have interviewed people who said that they went to dances in LaPoint. Did you family ever load up and go to these dances that were held in LaPoint?

Ruby: *Not much, it was twelve miles long for a team and wagon.* Yes, my dad kind of got drunk at one of em', he got in the teachers tent. He puked all over in there and mom had to go out and clean it up. He was so drunk that he couldn't drive the team home. So Bryan Hacking drove us home. He was a sheep herder and herded sheep for the Hackings.

Ellen: Did you graduate from high school?

Ruby: No, I only graduated the eighth grade.

Ellen: So, how old were you when you got married?

Ruby: Nineteen.

Ellen: So what did you do between the eighth grade and nineteen?

Ruby: Herd sheep. That's right.

Ellen: So how did you meet your sweetheart herding sheep?

Ruby: Oh gosh! This is a long story. He went to school up there where I did when I was a kid. Then his dad run the coal mine just a mile or so away from the school house. They would come over to the spring that was just below the school house there and get water for the mine. His mother wanted milk, so mom would fix them milk in gallon bottles and when I was herding sheep I would take it over and drop it off to her. Well, Weston would go out the back door when I came in the front door. But I got to tell you more about herdin' sheep.

Ellen: First tell me about why he would go out the back door as you came in the front door.

Ruby: You have to ask him that. (Ruby giggles) *I took the milk to the boarding house where they lived; there was a front door and a back door.*

Alice: He [Weston] was a bit shy.

Ellen: I thought maybe that was a code and they would meet up out to the back or something.

Ruby: *No*, She cooked for the coal mine, Lucy did. She would get sick and she would ask me to come over and cook the meals. I would occasionally, when I wasn't herdin' sheep, do that. Harrison Justice was his father and he said that I flipped around there so fast that I cut the cat's ear off with my dress tail. (Ruby giggles)

Ellen: (Ellen giggles) what a cute saying! What a cute saying! Were you a good cook?

Ruby: Well, I knew how to cook, but not as good as my sister. I had to herd sheep to much. I knew how to cook.

Ellen: So anyway, how did you and your husband, how did you finally stop him from going out the back door?

Ruby: *I didn't, they closed the mine down and moved to LaPoint. Weston went to work at the CCC camps.* When I was nineteen, my mom sent me to Colorado to take care of her mother and dad. No, I was seventeen, I wasn't nineteen I was seventeen. I went on what they call the mail carrier and stayed all night in a hotel in Craig, Colorado, got up the next morning and caught the train to Fort Lupton. My dad's mother and father, they lived there and his brother. Then they took me down to Fort Morgan. I stayed there for about six months or something. She had cancer. She had a chair for just a regular potty to fit under it. She sat there most of the time. But I couldn't never satisfy her.

Ellen: She must have been in a lot of pain.

Ruby: Oh, I imagine she was but anyway, grandpa always made the bed and it was a feather bed. He said to me now, he called me girl, you go in there and make that feather

bed. So I went in there and I thought I done as good as he did, but that night when they went to bed he said, "Dora, how does the bed feel?" She said, "Fine." And he said, well that girl made it and then it wasn't fine no more.

Ellen: So you didn't know your grandparents well?

Ruby: Well, not really. I never seen her parents. It was 1926, my dad bought a pick-up and mom was havin' a family reunion in Fort Morgan. So we drove, we went in this pick-up to that family reunion. It was in 1926. At that time there was no paved roads. Goin' up Steamboat Ridge we have to get out and push to get up the hill. The first night on the trip we stayed at the K Ranch. We only made about 30 miles a day. We stayed in Bluebell, [Maybell, Colorado] the first night. I remember I walked down the sidewalk and I found a pocketknife. We got up at Bluebell [Maybell] and drove to Craig for breakfast.

Ellen: That was almost lunch!

Ruby: Well, it was breakfast for us. The dad took us all in, let's see, Rosa was the baby and she rode in front with mom and dad and the rest of us all rode in the back of that pick-up. They took us in and he orders us all a stack of pancakes and an egg. The waitresses was sitting back there laughin' their heads off cause not one of em' could eat it. I finally got mine down, but I was the only one. They was a big stack of pancakes and they was about that big around (shows about a 6 inch circle).

Ellen: Your dad could have ordered two stacks and everyone had one.

Ruby: Well yeah! But at home they could eat it. It was new and everybody wanted to gawk around you know, and see what it was like because bein' on a farm and never bein' out and about. It was different. Mom had bought Chauncey a brand new Stetson hat and goin' down Berthoud's Pass, he lost it.

Ellen: Did he say Stop! Stop! Stop!

Ruby: No. He was supposed to let us girls take care of it and he wouldn't. He was going to take care of it hisself, I don't know what happened to it but it blew away.

Ellen: Did that upset your mother?

Ruby: I imagine it did. I don't know. Anyway, we stayed that night at the foot of Berthoud's Pass and then the next day we drove on into Fort Lupton and stayed with his parents. Then the next day we drove on to Fort Morgan and stayed with her parents.

Ellen: That was the first time that you had met them?

Ruby: Yeah, that was the first time that I had met her parents. My dad's parents come out once a year to see us.

Ellen: I don't know what I would have done if I could not have had that communication and family ties. I guess back then there were no telephones or anything to do this with.

Ruby: We got letters from her parents once in a while. Dad's parents communicated well and Leslie would come out and go fishing.

Alice: But they were closer to.

Ruby: Well, Fort Lupton is not too far from Fort Morgan. I'll have to tell you, Grandma would always bring her old dresses and Mom would make us dresses out of her old dresses. That is what we would wear to school. We had one dress we wore one week and the next week we had another one that we wore. That was the clothes we wore to school. But any way, I got to go back to herdin' sheep. We had a cedar corral that my dad had built. We corralled them in this cedar corral at night when we left so you can know that we stayed at that cedar corral until they bedded down. Then we would have to get up and be out to that corral before the sheep got ready to get out.

Ellen: Could they get out on their own?

Ruby: Oh yeah! They could break the corral down and get out.

Ellen: So did you herd sheep all year long?

Ruby: No, not entirely all year long. If dad had the hay in the winter time he would feed em'. The he would take the team out and get a cedar tree and he would go around over the brush and tromp the snow down the sheep could get to the feed underneath the snow. My life was not easy. We would build a fire and this was on weekends when we wasn't in school and we had build a fire in a stump and so this time there wasn't much brush around or anything, so Chauncey and I decided well we would kick that snow off from that old burnt stump, you know, and there was still fire in it. So we gathered us up some brush and put it on and started a fire.

Ellen: Well, It got you warm! Then what happened?

Ruby: It just burned.

Ellen: Did you ever drag a book along and read?

Ruby: Nope! I played marbles. That is what we would do with our time when the sheep would shade up. We would play marbles. This one day, my brother was sick and this was in the summertime. And I had to go alone. So, I was sittin' out there on my horse watchin' the sheep and Jiggs Johnson, he herded his dad's sheep the same time we herded our sheep. He rode up there and he got off from his horse and he started over to my horse, I had a little dog pup and I would give anything for this picture, and he got on his hind feet and his front feet dropped down like this and his mouth wide open and he headed for Jiggs. He got on that horse and left, I'm tellin' ya. I would give anything for that picture. I can see it in my mind.

Ellen: Did the dog not like Jiggs?

Ruby: I have no ide'. Jiggs, I think was one that liked to bother women. I think this dog recognized that this is what he came there for. He got on that horse and left and I was still sitting on mine. So one time in the spring, it was stormin' and my dad said to me and Chauncey, "I want you to push the cows back on to Little Mountain where they can get more feed." This storm came up and there was a wash, about like from here to that tree, and this old dead headed horse I was ridin', we called pard, he jumped. That lightning hit a tree no farther that that tree away from us, it cut the limbs off from that tree and that horse went wild. He jumped that wash.

Ellen: Did anyone go off the horse?

Ruby: No, I was the only one on it. You didn't have time to think about getting' scared. It was bad enough I could feel the effects of the lightning and I know that horse did. It was close to us.

Alice: She had a mission. It wasn't her time yet.

Ruby: Well, my brother was ridin' the other horse and it didn't hit his horse. Oh I can tell you lots of stories.

Ellen: Well tell me. That is what I am here for. We are gathering you history.

Ruby: We had about fifteen cows that they milked. We had one that we called Phoebe. She had one stump horn on her and she had this calf out there in that desert. She would come in every night and leave that calf out there and we knew she had it. But she would never bring it in. Dad said, "Well, you have got to get up in the morning and find that calf and bring it in." So we did. We followed that herd and we come to this big brush flat, what we called Little Mountain. The dog was runnin' around in the brush and found that calf. This old cow come a bawlin' down there. In my day and age it didn't bother a bit. I wasn't afraid of nothin'.

Alice: Kind of looks like she didn't need to be afraid of nothing either. She had many experiences.

Ruby: We had Eli Smith's sheep one year and we turned em' all back but one. I think I told you that. They didn't have to herd sheep. Me and my brother had to herd sheep.

Ellen: Eli Smith's kids didn't have to herd sheep.

Ruby: No, not when we had them.

Ellen: Oh, yeah, when Eli gave them to you to herd. How many children did Eli have?

Ruby: He had Wilma, Ray and Marvey.

Alice: Wilma is still alive and she lives above mom's place over there. Mother and her are about the same age.

Ruby: She is four or five months older than I am. I don't know if they herded sheep or had them in a pasture or what. But anyway, Dad took up the rest of the herd.

Ellen: Did your dad get paid for herding his sheep?

Ruby: I don't know whether he got paid for it or not.

Alice: I would think that they did. Some compensation had to be made.

Ruby: Well, it didn't matter whether we got paid or not because we had to herd sheep so it didn't matter if we had forty more.

Ellen: So back to your husband and you. Where were you married?

Ruby: In the courthouse in Vernal.

Ellen: By the Justice of the Peace?

Ruby: Yeah! (Ruby shows a picture of their wedding)

Alice: Have you told her how you met, mother? What you told father.

Ruby: No, not yet.

Alice: You need to tell her, that's what she wants. That is what she is looking for mother.

Ellen: Now you said that he would go out the door as you would come in the front door.

Ruby: Yeah, that was when he was working in the coal mines. It was a government coal mine. At that time it was.

Ellen: Okay, tell me about a date you went on.

Ruby: We didn't go on many dates. I went to Fort Morgan and when I came back through Fort Lupton my grandparents, she gave me my first permanent. And you had all them heavy things on your head.

Alice: Tell her what you told father when he asked you out. This is what she is looking for.

Ruby: No, when I came back from Fort Morgan we stopped off in LaPoint at the garage where Weston was workin'. He came out and he asked me for a date and I said, "Go to hell."

Ellen: OH! Why did you say that?

Ruby: Ruby giggles. Cause I wasn't interested in men.

Ellen: But you were nineteen!

Ruby: No quite nineteen then, but I can remember that.

Ellen: So when did he finally win your favors?

Ruby: Well, he asked my dad if he could come and work on the farm. He wanted to be up where he could work and see me. I was herdin' sheep. A lot of times I didn't get in till midnight, he would be sittin' up waitin', him and my mom.

Ellen: So what kind of work did he do on your dad's farm?

Ruby: Oh, regular farm work like shock hay or load hay or whatever.

Ellen: He didn't ever offer to come and help you herd sheep?

Ruby: No. No. The sheep was mine and Chauncey's.

Ellen: He knew you had a mean dog. (Everyone giggles.)

Ruby: I don't think the dog would have bothered him. I don't know.

Ellen: So how long did it take for him to persuade you to marry him?

Ruby: All summer long, then Ruby sorts through some of her history looking for a song that she has...

Alice: Just finish it mother before you look for it, so that she's got the history together here.

Ruby: Kids, Kids

Alice: Should have had more. I wanted a sister.

Ruby: Your dad didn't want one so he saw to that.

Alice: Anyway, she is skipping over here. She needs to finish actually what happened in the fall.

Ellen: Tell me about your marriage.

Ruby: Well, if I can find my song.

Ellen: You had a song?

Alice: She wrote this song about em' and I sang it.

Ellen: Would you like to sing it. Can you sing it?

Alice: I wrote this song after he passed on.

A picture surfaced and Alice tells that it is the home where they were raised.

Ellen: Did you like to sing?

Ruby: I never could sing. I never could carry a tune even.

Alice: I am the singer. I sing. There is lots of history about me. The song she is looking for is to the tune of Home, Home on the Range. It explains what she did to my father. This is actually what she did to my father. You can read this out loud if you like.

Ruby: This is some of my drawings. (Shows some of her art work)

Alice: Reads the songs that her mother wrote: Dorothy and I sang it at her 90th birthday.

I cast my ship and set my sail for a little gal in a Deep Creek Vale.

Who loved her pony more than me, to catch her sly I'd have to be.

She rode over the hills where the deer and antelope play

I longed for a date but would just have to wait, to think what to us for a bait.

I asked her dad if he needed a hand to haul the hay and to plow the land

He said that he did and I got the bid to help with the farm work, I did.

Night after night I did yearn and hope for her safety return

Long hours in the saddle she spent, herding her dad's cattle

While I fought a long lonely battle

After the round-up that fall, I proposed to my doll

She accepted and we set a date

My dreams were coming true and I'll never be blue

For the pony has gone out to graze.

A love next we'll build for long happy hours will be filled

I'll cherish the date that I got with my mate

And hope for a long happy life.

By Ruby Alice Justice

Ruby: For _____ years.

Alice: I almost cried. I have a hard time singing that song. I told mother, "You asked me to do the impossible."

Ellen: So you were quite a poet.

Ruby: Not really.

Alice: Well, mom did a lot of writing. When she was sick and I took care of her and she did some writhing then.

Alice is going to copy some of Ruby's poems and artwork to include.

Ruby: Here is a little spread that I made for my first granddaughter. She got killed. She got run over. She shows more of her talents to me. Here is one that you might want something off from. (Showing more pictures) Here is where we took a fishin' trip.

Ellen: And you took a trip to where?

Ruby: To Chipeta Lake in the Bally Mountains.

Ellen: After you were married, did your husband still work at the farm?

Ruby: Yeah! That fall Mom and Dad left me and my husband to take care of Lola, Rose, Vile, and Evert. No they took Evert with them, we had Lola, Rose and Vile. They went out to take care of her folks. They took Chauncey and Vona and left em' with his parents to go to school and they left me and Weston to see that these other kids got to school. Well, we went down at Christmas time to their play in LaPoint and then we went back home and meanwhile in between school startin' and Christmas it snowed and they sent a CCC cat out to plow out the road. They plowed it one side and then went back and plowed the other side. In the night the wind came up and blew it full of snow. So we were snowed in there for two or three months. The kids didn't go to school or nothin'.

Ellen: Did you try to teach the kids?

Ruby: No. We went and had to take the horse and team on the sleigh and go feed the cows. They had just a foot print they had to step in all the time. If they got off, they couldn't get back on cause the snow was four feet deep. Mom and Dad came home and they were still snow there. The kids had never gone back to school. They did get to finish out the last part of the school year.

Ellen: So what did your husband do for work for the majority of his life?

Ruby: Well, he got a job with his cousin up on Paradise Park Dam raisin' it up higher and Ruby and Bob had one tent and him and I had another tent. And we slept in this tent on the ground and cooked on a camp fire. I was pregnant with Tom. We had Allen and Ruby had one or two babies with her.

Ellen: That must have been so hard for you?

Ruby: Oh, I didn't think it was at the time. I was tough.

Ellen: You were tough, washing clothes and diapers.

Ruby: Well, I had Allen broke, I lived through rough times. When Allen was born you couldn't buy outing flannel even to make diapers. When Roosevelt got in he let loose outing flannel so you could get diaper cloth.

Ellen: This was during this depression!

Ruby: Yeah! So then we bought some outing flannel and I made diapers for Allen. We came down home and he'd left me and I told him and I said, "Well, you're going to be back again tonight. And Tom was born. My cousin had came in from Denver and she was a head nurse. She said, "If I'm here I'll deliver." And she was there. She said, "If I hadn't knowed what to done he'd a choked to death." She said, "The cord was wrapped three times around his neck." She said, "I knew what to do." And I started to hemorrhage and she just took half towels and rolled em' up in a roll and just bound em' down on me and I quit bleeding in a little bit. My life wasn't that easy.

Ellen: So you said Dr. Lurriene Miles was the first doctor you went to. At what age did you see her?

Ruby: Sixteen, I got kicked by a horse. They took me over there to see if everything was okay.

Ellen: And did they find you okay? She was a doctor in Vernal?

Ruby: Yeah! She was in Roosevelt. We had to go by team and buggy all that way so it took us all day and into the night to get home. I got it wrote here.

Ruby: Showing more pictures, here is Weston's parents and mine.

Ellen: I am impressed with your genealogy and that you have so much done.

Ruby: Here is a picture when we went in the Model T when we went to Fort Morgan. That was taken at Grandpa and Grandma _____'s place. That was a family reunion.

Ellen: (Looking at a picture) I see here this house on Deep Creek, did your parents built this rock underneath here.

Ruby: They build the whole house. Dad and her made it from the rock behind the hill, there.

Ellen: Did you have a favorite holiday?

Ruby: I didn't know what a holiday was. Really, what we did on holidays was like I told you, one family would take either Christmas or Thanksgiving or whatever, you know. They would fix a dinner and we would play games.

Ellen: So, do you remember getting electricity?

Ruby: No. we went to California because he had some kind of arthritis or something. He couldn't get up and down. He thought the sunshine would help him. It did. He wore the back seat of the car out getting' in and out, I didn't have a driver's license at that time. I got my driver's license in California.

Ellen: How long did you stay in California?

Ruby: We stayed there about two years. Him and Dad got a shop and did mechanic work down in Merced but it didn't pan out. They didn't get much work.

Ellen: Did you come to Vernal or Roosevelt often?

Ruby: No.

She is showing pictures of vacation that the family took to South Dakota along with other trips that were taken.

Ellen: Did you enjoy traveling?

Ruby: I didn't mind it.

Ellen: Ruby hands me a postcard and it read: Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch-Teaching boys to the kind men God intended. I thought maybe that was something to do with Boy Scouts.

Ruby: I taught Primary. I graduated from Primary with my daughter. I never joined the Church until I was past well maybe I was 48.

Ellen: So you joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Did your husband join with you?

Ruby: No.

Ellen: Was he deceased at that time?

Ruby: No. He was already a member.

Ruby is still going through her papers finding her birth certificate and more photos.

She finds a photo of horses that belonged to her father. She names the horses in the photo as Oliver, Chub and Maude. Her father had another team called Kit and Fly. You could ride Kit and Fly or work them. She finds a photo of Weston training to be an air craft mechanic. April 28, 1941.

Ellen: So is that what he did? What did he do when he came back here?

Ruby: He got a job with the County being a grader operator. He worked off and on at different places until he got it.

Ellen: So he was trained to be an air craft mechanic and then he was able to work for the county after a time working as a grader operator.

Ellen: Did you enjoy being a mother?

Ruby: I did. I made my kids pants out of their dad's old pants, the back of the legs and their shirts out of the backs of his shirts. That was the clothes they wore when they were little. They were cute too.

Ellen: Were you involved in their school?

Ruby: No. They don't let you do that no more.

Ellen: Did you enjoy becoming a grandmother?

She now shows pictures of grandchildren along with more photos.

Ellen: Do you appreciate the period of time that you grew up in?

Ruby: I do.

Ellen: Have you done any thing in your adult life that you are so excited about?

Ruby: Well, I graduated from Primary with my daughter. I went all the way through with her. I think it was 1948 when I joined the church.

Ellen reads from a photo and history. Weston went to Logan, Utah April 28, 1941. We moved up to Logan May 1, 1941 and lived in a little one-room upstairs until May of 1942. Weston got a job in Spokane, Washington for \$300 per month. Chauncey came out and drove our pick-up back to dad's place.

Ruby: He brought me and the kids back. Then after he got money enough he sent for me and the kids to come there.

Ellen: Did he have a fascination with airplanes?

Ruby: He just liked mechanic work. He taught mechanics in Washington.

Ellen: How long did you live in Washington?

Ruby: Till the war ended.

Ellen: Okay, 1945 or 1946?

Ruby: No we didn't. He got to drinking and I told him, "Well, you either give up drinking or you give up me and the kids!" He come home about four days later and told me to pack up that we were moving to Ogden. So they transferred him down there. He shaped up his life.

Ellen: What else would you like to tell me.

Ruby: The first new sewing machine that I had was in 1976. The old one was a Singer Treadle. Somebody stole it. We had left it in the house when we went to California and when we come back, they had stole it. They had stole a guitar and a washing machine.

Ellen: She shows a picture to me of her first Bishop in church. Bishop Walker.

Ellen: How many people lived in LaPoint while you were growing up?

Ruby: Oh! There were not too many. There were mostly farmers. I want to tell you there wasn't anything on that ranch that I couldn't do. Not a thing, my dad had told me many time that he leave and go and come back and find everything just like I left it.

Ellen: Because he trusted you!

Ruby: Yeah. He did.

Ellen: Were your parents religious?

Ruby: Not really.

Ellen: Do you remember the Neumeyer's?

Ruby: The name sounds familiar.

Ellen: The names were Jessie and Fred Neumeyer? They homesteaded here in 1905 and had children who lived here. Was your husband interested in guns?

Ruby: I wasn't and he was.

Ellen: How did you learn how to sew?

Ruby: Mom taught us.

Ellen: Did you learn to sew a straight line by making carpet rags? That is how my mom taught us to sew.

Ruby: My mom learned us how to do everything, make dresses, and sew your own clothes.

Ellen: Did you have to make your own patterns?

Ruby: Yep!

Ellen: Well, We have been almost two hours and I try not to make you to tired.

Ruby: It don't bother me.

Ellen: If there is anything else you want to include we can do that. I want to thank you for letting me come and visit with you.

Ruby's daughter, Alice, is making copies of several pages of the history and art work that Ruby has collected.

Ruby: I had a hard time getting' a copy of my birth certificate because I was born in Wyoming and it was recorded in Denver. Mom had a hard time finding it. I don't know why the doctor did that. The doctor came from Loveland, Colorado. Anyway, mom had a hard time finding it. I was fifteen before she or so before she found it. I got to tell you, one time I come across a sheep that was in Deep Crow Creek, I got her out and put her on the bank and she turned around and got back in. I said, "You just stay there." I couldn't pull her out again. When that wool gets wet it is heavy. This sheet here tells of when a tree fell across my dad's arm and broke it. I put him out of work practically for life. I never did heal right.

Ruby: I can tell you about my first baby. He was born in Gusher. Dr. Eskelson was the doctor. He said, "When you have your first pain, you call me and in about noon you call me again. I said, "Well, doctor don't wait that long. It's not going to take me that long." I woke up a 5 o'clock in the morning and we had to go outside to the bathroom. When I went out and I came back I said to Weston, "Well, you better go call that doctor and tell him not to wait till noon to come." I was drippin' blood then. He got there just as Allen was comin'. His head was comin' through.

Ellen: Was that scary for you.

Ruby: No, I had seen my mom have about six. When my baby brother was born, Mom said, "You get on that horse and go over to Johnson's, where he was workin', and you get him and you tell him not to wait." I got on my old pony and I went over there and got him. He got on his pony and we rode back and he said, "Well, the horses are yours now.

I'll go in and take care of mom." I put up the horses and I went in. He washed his hands in Lysol and the head had lodged and it wouldn't come. So he just went in and raised him up and brought him out. He handed him to me and Vona. He was the greasiest kid I had ever seen. He said, "Now he's yours, you wash and dress him." We tied the cord. He delivered all of his kids except me and Vona. He was ready to take Mom over to Vernal when Chauncey was born and she got up that mornin' and he was comin'. So he delivered him, so from there on out he delivered all the others. So he delivered six of his own kids.

Ellen: So how did they file a birth certificate?

Ruby: Well, the doctor done it. He would send it to Salt Lake and then they would make you a copy and send it back. They all had a birth certificate. Well, I didn't have one. Vona was born in Vernal and all the rest of em' was born on Deep Creek in the new house. Lola was born in the one room house and the rest of em' was born in the new house. They moved into that when she was a baby. I had chicken pox so I couldn't do nothin' and I had to stay in bed.

Ellen: Have you ever had shingles?

Ruby: No, I have never had a broken bone in my whole life. I have never had an operation. I still read without glasses. I have three pair of glasses but they don't work. My eyes are better than the glasses.

Ellen: I have noticed your hands. You don't have arthritis.

Ruby: Nope. I don't have arthritis or anything that I know of. I don't have pain. I had an x-ray on my back and there are two vertebrae in the lower part on my back that is half gone. But I had Gib and his father give me a blessing and I don't have pain no more. They just get tired and say you have got to quit. And I know when I have got to quit.

Ellen: Well, you look beautiful. I hope I look this good at ninety-one years old.

Ruby: I have to say my grandkids have supported me real well. I got one from Russell in Grand Junction last night, wishing me happy birthday. So how many grandchildren do you have? Allen had five, Tom had seven, Alice had five. It was great children that supported me. I have had Cataracts. Both eyes have been operated on. For my age I have really good eyesight. I read without glasses.

These are some of Ruby's favorite songs: We Thank Thee for a Prophet, Ere You Left Your Room This Morning, A Poor Wayfaring Man. O Say Can You See,

Ellen: Are you patriotic?

Ruby: Yes, You can tell by going through my history. This is some of my mother's songs and I will bet that you have never heard of em'. When the Fields Are White with

Daisies, Willie Green, The Burglar Song, These were some of my mom's favorites. It says:

I'll sing you a song of a burglar bold who crept into an old maids room, as quite as a mouse. He looked for a place to hide himself, the folks were all asleep.

Well he said without ceremony, I'll take a quiet little peep, then under the bed the burglar crept. He lay closest to the wall, if he had known it was an old maids room; he wouldn't of had the gall, but thinking of all the money he'd get as under the bed he lay.

At nine o'clock he saw a sight that made his hair turn gray. At nine o'clock the old maid came. "Oh, I'm so tired," and thinking all was safe, she never looked under the bed. She took out her teeth and her bum glass eye and the hair fell off from her head. The burglar turned in seventeen fits as he gazed for under the bed.

From under the bed, the burglar crept. He was a total wreck. Now the old maid did not holler or cry one bit, but just as cool as a clam, she grabbed him around the neck and says, "Thank God, my prayers are answered. At last I've caught me a man." From under the pillow a revolver she drew and to the young man said, "You'll marry me or I'll blow off the top of your head." The burglar looked all around the room and saw no place to scoot. He looked at her teeth and her bum glass eye and he said, "For God's sake, shoot."

My grandkids like to hear me tell them that.

Ellen: Did you travel up to Flaming Gorge at all?

Ruby: I traveled up to Flaming Gorge but it was after my husband died. He worked on Flaming Gorge. He ran a cat there below the dam. I don't know exactly what he done. It was while they was building it.

Ruby: Some of my school teachers were Wolcott, Delthia Thompson Taylor, and Hannah Richards on Deep Creek. Blaine Lee taught me at LaPoint in the 8th grade.

Ellen: Blaine Lee was a young man.

Ruby: I don't remember. He had the seventh and eighth grade in the one room in the school house.

Ruby: My dad and Weston built Jake Sweatman a house over the hill.

Ellen: Tell me who Jake Sweatman was.

Ruby: He used to have a lot of goats there and they lived in a dugout.

Ruby: They didn't live in it very long. They decided to go back to Arkansas and left it standing up there. Nobody ever moved into it. Jiggs Johnson bought it but nobody ever moved into it.

Ellen: So it's not standing anymore?

Ruby: Yes, it is standing. It is a log home. I have a picture. It is just off through there from the Jiggs Johnson place. My dad helped build a room on Johnson's house.

Ellen: It sounds like you dad was quite a carpenter?

Ruby: He was and Weston was a jack of all traits.

Alice: Did you show her a picture of the house that mom and dad built?

Ruby: No.

Alice: Oh! You must have this. This is awesome. There is a picture of my mother and the cement house that they built with the cows drinking on the top. I have a picture of it.

Ellen: Now, is this the house that you live in today?

Alice: Yes,

Ruby: It is solid concrete. It is eight inches thick.

Ellen: If the cows are on top of it, is it covered with dirt also?

Alice: It wasn't at that time.

Ruby: They was drinkin' water off the top of the house and Theora called down and she said the cows is on your roof. You're goin' to fall in. They wouldn't. He drove the dump truck right out on it and dumped it on the front room to keep it from freezin'.

Ellen: You didn't have to have much insulation, did you?

Ruby: You have to have insulation and heat. I need insulation right now.

Alice: Yeah, she applied for some help to get something done. I don't know whether it will come. This is the pictures that is on that video, there are cows on the roof. (Alice has a package of photos to show me.) My mother has gone through here and disrupted them a little bit, looking for the pictures and not knowing what they were.

Ruby: It took us four years to build that house in sections.

Alice: This is her primary classes that she taught. You will love this video. I narrate it. There is a picture of her school life. You'll love this video.

Ruby: I came in on the narrow-gauge from Grand Junction.

Ellen: On the Uintah Railway, you came through Dragon.

Alice: That is when she was a baby. (Her picture is shown) It is an awesome picture

Ellen: So this video has all these photos on it.

Alice: Yes and they are narrated by me. It is awesome. I am looking for the house that they built.

Ruby: It was built with a tractor with a cement mixer on the back and my brother-in-law will let him have his tractor with a bucket on the front so they could dump a load of sand into a box that Weston had made so the cement would where they would mix it up. And then they would dump it into the other tractor bucket and then he would bring it around and dump it in.

Ellen: Into the forms?

Ruby: Yeah! And one of the times it knocked the form off and I went down onto the front room floor with the cement.

Alice: You will see this picture in the video. It is narrated and I read what happened in it. It looks to me that that is the picture that has been removed from here. Oh! Here it is.

Ellen: OH MY GOODNESS! (Looking at the picture of the cows on the roof.)

Alice giggles

Ellen: Did you have grass up there.

Alice: No, no.

Ruby: There is an old trailer house sittin' on top of it now.

Alice: There is an old trailer house, nobody lives in it or anything. He (Dad) put tar paper or something and filled it over with dirt and then the cows could come up there and drink. And the trailer house sits on top of there now. It looks different now than what it did then. But this is in the video. You will get to see this.

Ruby: They were four years makin' it.

Ellen: You were four years making this video?

Alice: Four year making the house. It took me a year to make the video, a good year. At the end of it, it has some of her 90th Year Birthday Party also. You will love it.